

SPECIAL
MARVEL
EDITION

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MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



SPECIAL MARVEL EDITION™ FEATURING

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI,

MASTER OF KUNG FU™

IRON-
FISTED
FIRST
ISSUE!



MARTIAL-ARTS
ACTION
--AS YOU'VE NEVER
SEEN IT BEFORE!!

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

THE POWER-PACKED
PREMIERE
APPEARANCE
OF THE MOST
FANTASTIC,
MOST **FAS-**
CINATING
NEW HERO
OF **THIS**
OR ANY
OTHER
YEAR--

SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU!

SHANG-CHI:
BORN TO BE THE WORLD'S
MOST **FEARSOME**
FIGHTER. YET ALSO
BORN TO CARRY THE
CRUELLEST CURSE
IN MANKIND'S
MEMORY--

--BECAUSE HIS **FATHER** IS THE MOST
INFAMOUS VILLAIN OF **ALL TIME--**

FU MANKHU

YOU'VE NEVER
SEEN **ANYTHING**
LIKE **THIS**
BEFORE! WE
ABSOLUTELY
GUARANTEE IT!

STEVE ENGLEHART / JIM STARLIN
AUTHOR ARTIST

AL MILGROM
INKER

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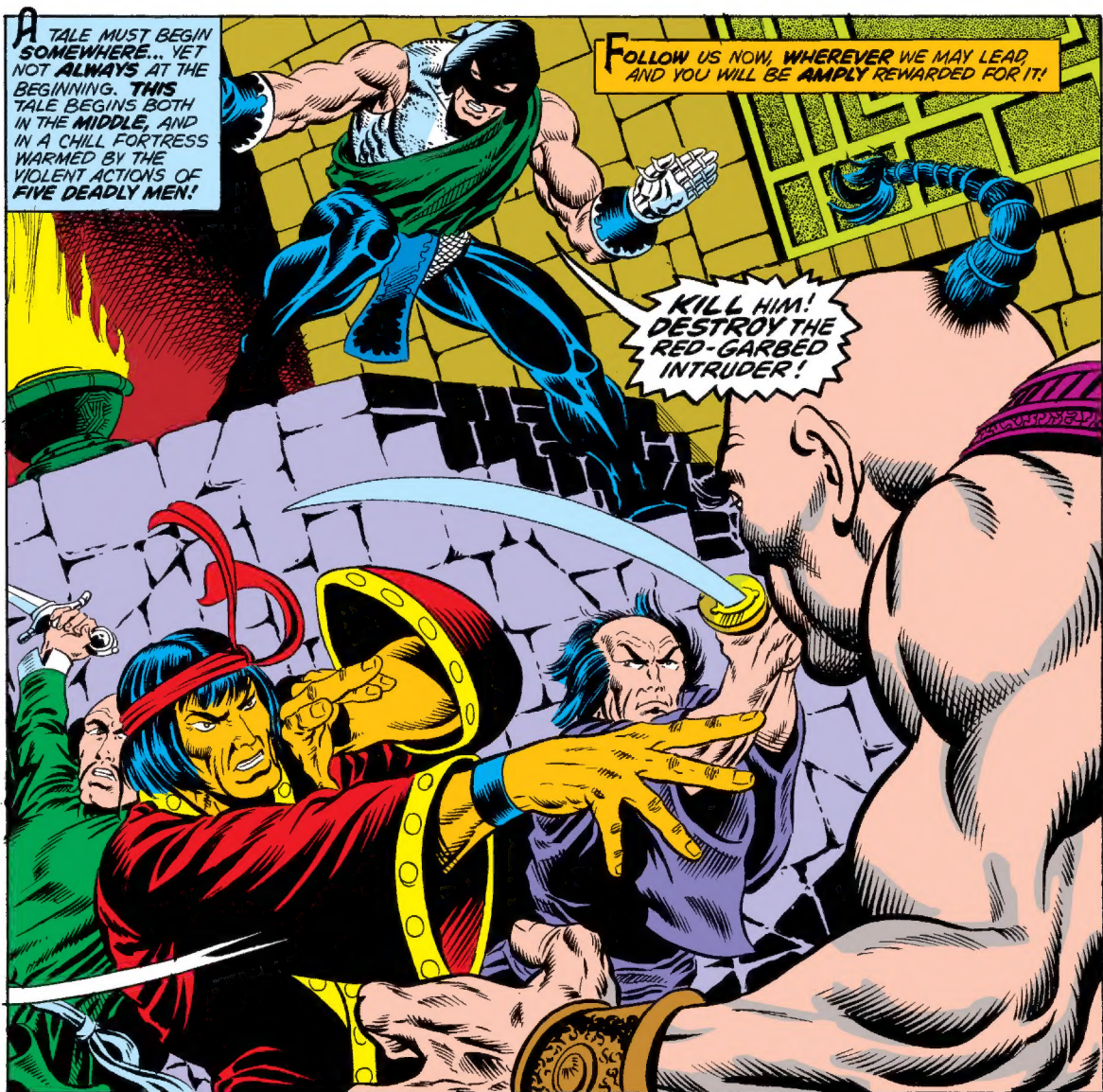
ROY THOMAS
EDITOR

FEATURING CHARACTERS CREATED
by **SAX ROHMER**

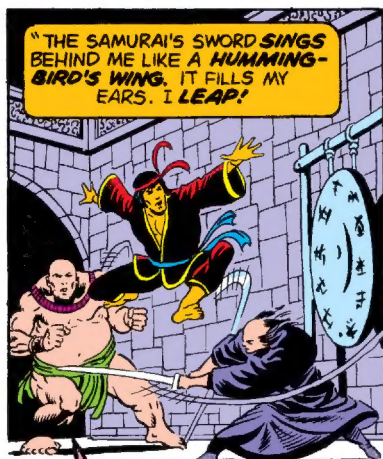
A TALE MUST BEGIN SOMEWHERE... YET NOT ALWAYS AT THE BEGINNING. THIS TALE BEGINS BOTH IN THE MIDDLE, AND IN A CHILL FORTRESS WARMED BY THE VIOLENT ACTIONS OF FIVE DEADLY MEN!

FOLLOW US NOW, WHEREVER WE MAY LEAD, AND YOU WILL BE AMPLY REWARDED FOR IT!

KILL HIM! DESTROY THE RED-GARBED INTRUDER!



"THE SAMURAI'S SWORD SINGS BEHIND ME LIKE A HUMMING-BIRD'S WING. IT FILLS MY EARS. I LEAP!"



DOG! YOU MISSED HIM!

THEN MY STEEL-SHOE FEET AND HANDS SHALL CORRECT THE ERROR!





"NOW THERE REMAINS BUT **ONE** OF MY ORIGINAL FOUR ASSAILANTS.



YOU ARE THE FOOL, SUMO-- FOR I AM **SHANG-CHI**, AND I AM THE SON OF --

-- **FU MANCHU!**

"A **FACE** HAS INTRUDED UPON MY THOUGHTS, EVEN AS I FIGHT: THE FACE OF MY **FATHER**. IT RECALLS THE **LAST TIME** I SAW HIM, AND AS HIS NAME PASSES MY **LIPS**, THE **MEMORIES** OF THAT MEETING -- AND ALL THAT HAS TRANSPIRED **SINCE** -- WELL UP **WITHIN** ME LIKE THE **HWANG HO'S** SPRINGTIME FLOODS!

GREETINGS, SHANG-CHI.

GREETINGS, HONORABLE ONE.

I AWAIT YOUR **COMMANDS**. YOU HAVE ONLY TO **SPEAK**, AND I AM YOUR **SLAVE**.

SHANG-CHI, CHILD OF MY FLESH... ALL OF YOUR NINETEEN YEARS HAVE BEEN SPENT HERE IN MY **HONAN RETREAT**--

--WHERE I (WHEN POSSIBLE) AND MY MOST TRUSTED **SENSEIS** (WHEN NOT) HAVE TRAINED YOU **RIGOROUSLY** IN BOTH THE **MENTAL** AND **MARTIAL ARTS**.

I AM WELL **PLEASED** WITH THE RESULTS.

YOUR **INTELLECT** RIVALS THE **BEST** OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD, AND MORE-OVER--

YOU ARE A **LIVING WEAPON!**

IT IS FOR THIS **FINAL** REASON THAT I WISH TO SEND YOU **INTO** THAT WORLD FOR THE **FIRST TIME!**

YOU HAVE BEEN **TOLD** OF MY UNCEASING WORK TO BRING THE FRUITS OF MY **GENIUS** TO BEAR UPON THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD-- TO AID SUFFERING **MANKIND**.

ONE SUCH, A **DR. PETRIE**, MAY WELL BE TERMED THE **MOST EVIL MAN ALIVE!**

YOU DO **NOT** KNOW THAT TREACHEROUS **FOES** HAVE ATTEMPTED TO **THWART** ME.



HIS LIFE NOW NEARS ITS CLIMAX, AS OLD AGE OVERTAKES HIM-- BUT HE MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO DIE OF NATURAL CAUSES!



FOR THE INIQUITIES HE HAS VISITED UPON ME-- FOR THE IRREPARABLE DAMAGE HE HAS DONE TO THE CAUSE OF WORLD ORDER-- THAT PEACE MUST BE DENIED HIM!



MY SON, YOU MUST KILL HIM!



AVFAIR: AN EXCLUSIVE SECTION OF LONDON.



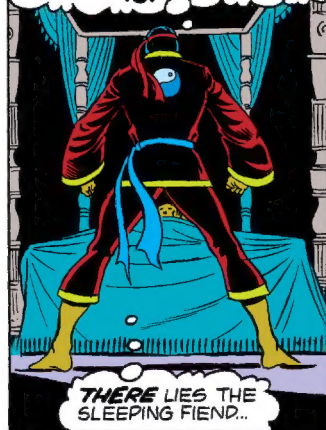
PETRIE'S HOME--

MY FIRST MISSION FOR MY FATHER IS AS AN ASSASSIN! HOW DIFFERENT FACT IS FROM MY CHILDISH IMAGININGS!



MY STUDIES IN THE PHILOSOPHIES HAVE SHOWN ME THAT KILLING IS AN ACT TO BE ABHORRED...

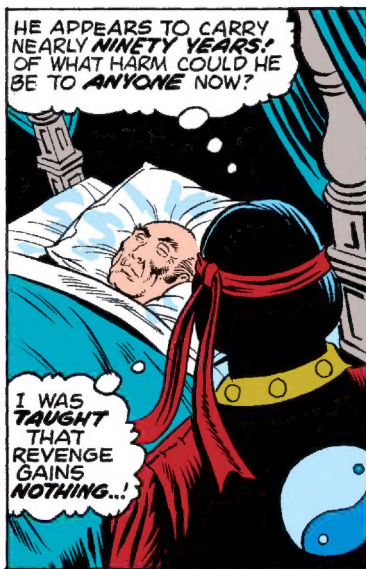
...YET MY FATHER IS AN HONORABLE AND TRUTHFUL MAN, OF COURSE. IF HE BELIEVES THIS COURSE TO BE CORRECT, THEN IT IS.



THERE LIES THE SLEEPING FIEND...



...BUT--HE IS SO OLD... SO FEEBLE!



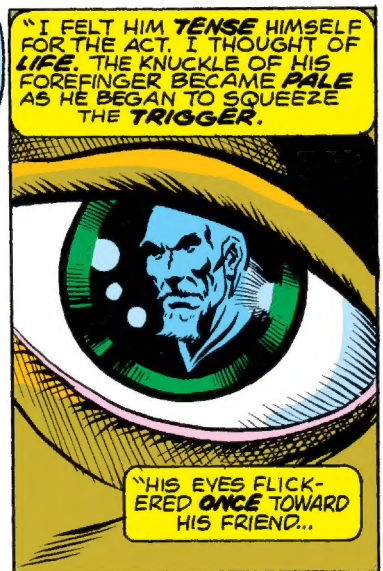
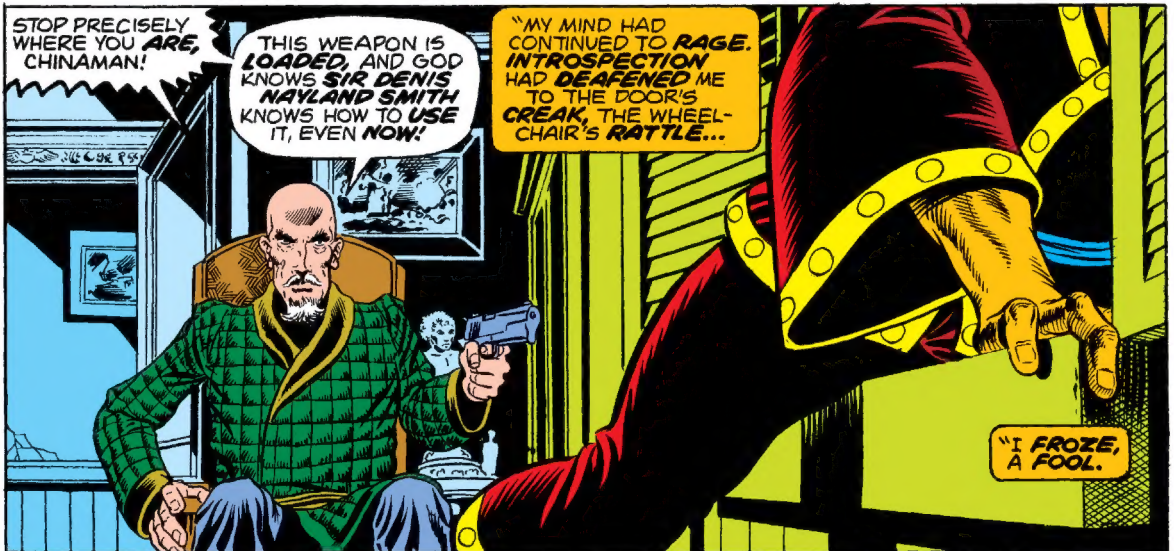
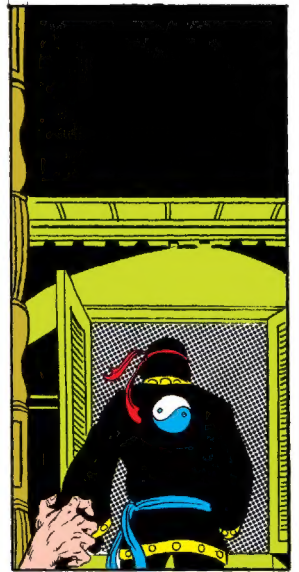
HE APPEARS TO CARRY NEARLY NINETY YEARS! OF WHAT HARM COULD HE BE TO ANYONE NOW?

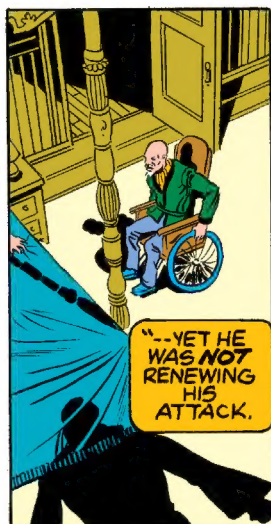
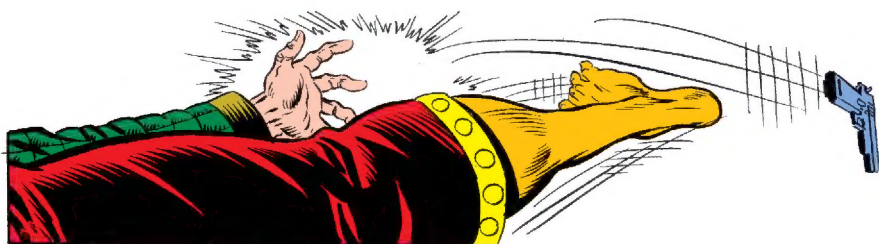
I WAS TAUGHT THAT REVENGE GAINS NOTHING...



"I STOOD THERE, OUTWARDLY SILENT THOUGH MY MIND WAGED WAR WITHIN ITSELF...

...YET SOMETHING IN THAT MOMENT CAUSED THE ANCIENT BRITON TO OPEN HIS RHEUMY EYES...







I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT FU MANCHU!
IT WAS 1911, AND I WAS AN AGENT OF THE
BRITISH GOVERNMENT STATIONED IN
BURMA, WHEN I FIRST HEARD OF A
CERTAIN **MAN**-- A MAN WHO SPOKE
EVERY CIVILIZED LANGUAGE, AND MOST
OF THE **BARBARIC**-- AN ADEPT IN ALL
ARTS AND SCIENCES TAUGHT IN
UNIVERSITIES, AND CERTAIN **OBSCURE**
ARTS AND SCIENCES **NO** UNIVERSITY OF
TODAY CAN TEACH-- A MAN WITH THE
INTELLECT OF ANY **THREE** MEN OF
GENIUS! IN SHORT, I LEARNED OF...
HIM!



HE WAS **ANCIENT** THEN--OLDER THAN I AM NOW! BUT BY 1932, HE HAD DEVELOPED THE
ELIXIR VITAE-- THE **OIL OF LIFE**-- TO PRESERVE AND **PROLONG** HIS VITALITY. IF **ANYTHING**,
HE HAS GROWN **YOUNGER** SINCE THEN. **AGELESSNESS** HAS FREED HIM TO WORK SINGLE-
MINDEDLY TOWARD HIS SINGLE **GOAL**: DOMINATION OF THE WORLD BY THE **SI-FAN**, THE MOST **SINISTER**
SECRET SOCIETY EXTANT! ITS ADHERENTS-- **ALL** AT HIS COMMAND-- INCLUDE **DACOITS**, **PHANSIGARS**,
THUGS, **HASHISHIN**, AND OTHER **MORE** TERRIBLE CULTS! YET HIS **OTHER** WEAPONS ARE **WORSE**,
FOR HE EMPLOYS **SPIDERS**, **RATS**, **REPTILES**, AND OTHER LOATHSOME VERMIN-- AS WELL AS THE
WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL **WOMEN**-- AS HIS PAWNS!

FOR FORTY YEARS I FOUGHT HIM, FIRST WITH PETRIE AND THEN OTHERS, AS THE WESTERN GOVERNMENTS UNITED BEHIND ME! ALWAYS HE ELUDED ME, UNTIL U.S. AGENT TONY MCKAY AND I CAPTURED A LIST OF EVERY SI-FAN LODGE MASTER IN CHINA, AND USED IT TO RUN HIM TO EARTH! YET, OUR ATTACK MIS-FIRED, AND HE CAPTURED US!



SIR DENIS, I HAVE ADMIRERD YOU SINCE OUR FIRST MEETING. HOWEVER...

I DESIRE RETRIBUTION.

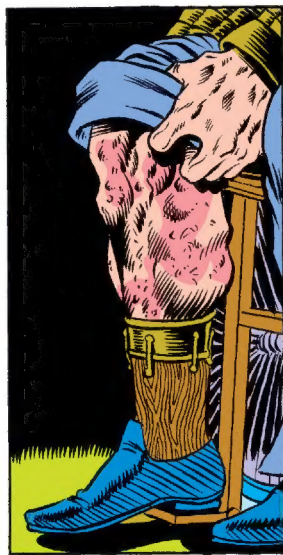
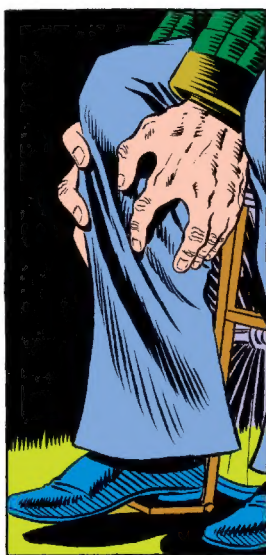
... IN THIS INSTANCE, YOU HAVE UTTERLY DESTROYED MY LIFE'S WORK. I AM NULLIFIED.

HE MURDERED MCKAY OUTRIGHT, WITH AN INJECTION OF HELLISH, GREEN FLUID. IT TOOK SIX SECONDS.



HE WAS MORE ARTISTIC WITH ME.

THERE WAS A GUARD HE USED-- AN ENORMOUS SUMO NAMED TAK. FU MANCHU SAID TAK COULD GRIND AN OPPONENT'S BONES TO PASTE!

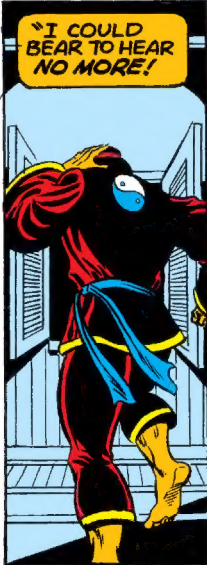


MY FATHER DID THIS?!

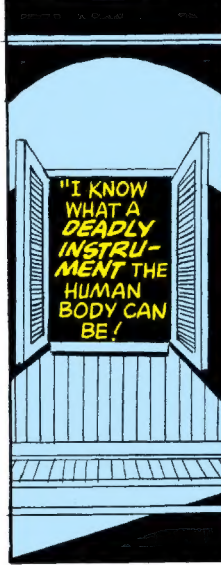
MY FATHER?!

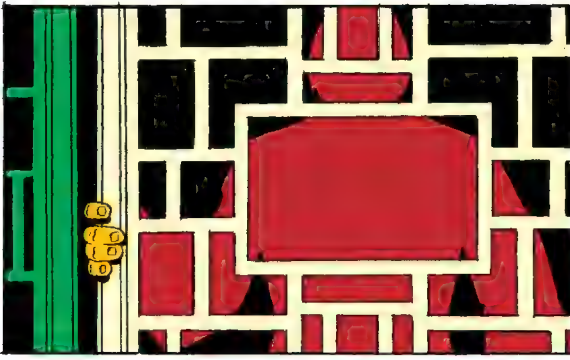


"I COULD BEAR TO HEAR NO MORE!"



"I KNOW WHAT A DEADLY INSTRUMENT THE HUMAN BODY CAN BE!"





MOTHER?

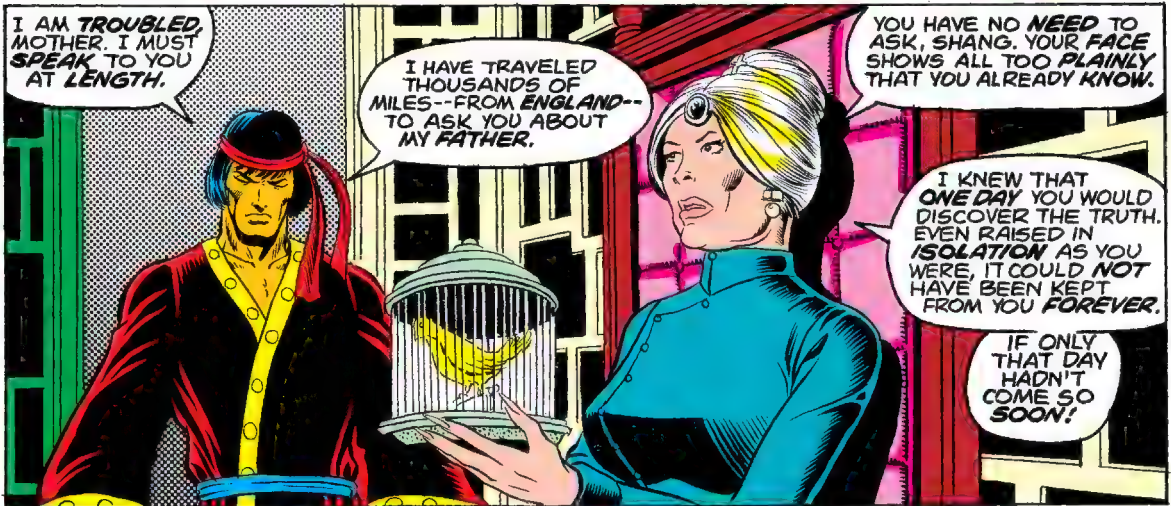
I AM **TROUBLED**,
MOTHER. I MUST
SPEAK TO YOU
AT LENGTH.

I HAVE TRAVELED
THOUSANDS OF
MILES--FROM ENGLAND--
TO ASK YOU ABOUT
MY FATHER.

YOU HAVE NO **NEED** TO
ASK, SHANG. YOUR **FACE**
SHOWS ALL TOO **PLAINLY**
THAT YOU ALREADY KNOW.

I KNEW THAT
ONE DAY YOU WOULD
DISCOVER THE TRUTH.
EVEN RAISED IN
ISOLATION AS YOU
WERE, IT COULD NOT
HAVE BEEN KEPT
FROM YOU **FOREVER**.

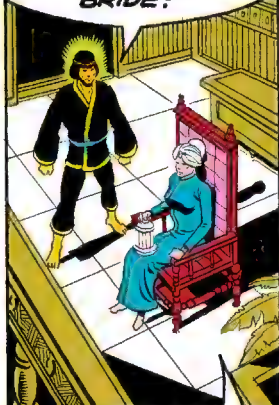
IF ONLY
THAT DAY
HADN'T
COME SO
SOON!



BUT--**WHY**, MOTHER?
WHY WOULD YOU-- AN
AMERICAN, A DAUGHTER
OF A COUNTRY AT WAR
WITH MY FATHER--
CONSENT TO BE HIS
BRIDE?

I COULD NOT LOVE HIM... BUT I COULD
HUNGER FOR HIS **POWER**-- POWER I COULD
TRANSMIT TO A CHILD OF MINE BY HIM!

AND I AM **HE**...
YOUR SON...

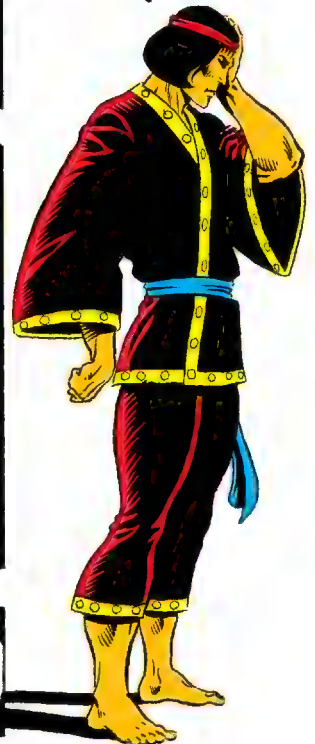


SHANG... HE **CHOSE**
ME--**SELECTED** ME
FROM ALL THE WOMEN
IN THE WORLD TO BE
THE **SCIENTIFICALLY-**
PERFECT MOTHER
OF HIS CHILD!

PICTURE HIM: TALL,
FELINE, WITH A BROW
LIKE **SHAKESPEARE** AND
A FACE LIKE **SATAN**, AND
LONG, MAGNETIC EYES OF
THE TRUE **CAT-GREEN!**



I WANTED A
SON WHO WOULD
BE A **KING!**



...THE SON OF FU MANCHU!

NEVERTHELESS, YOU ARE AN **INTRUDER!** MY MASTER HAS NOT **ORDERED** YOUR PRESENCE HERE IN THE SANCTUM!

I DO NOT *DISPUTE* THAT--TAK.

YOU KNOW MY NAME? HOW?

IT WAS AN **ASSUMPTION**--BUT A LOGICAL ONE BASED ON **OTHER** FACTS I KNOW.

I AM DETERMINED TO **PASS** YOU, TAK--NOT ONLY FOR **MYSELF**, NOW--

--BUT ALSO FOR **SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH!**

"THE NAME PULLS THE SUMO'S LIPS BACK, IN WHAT MAY BE A **SNARL**--OR A **SMILE**--

"--AND THEN HE IS **UPON** ME!

"A SAVAGE KICK SLIPS INSIDE MY DEFENSES, SMASHING MY BREATH FROM MY LUNGS!"

"SMITH WAS CORRECT: HE IS ENORMOUS!"

"I CAN CONCENTRATE UPON NOTHING NOW EXCEPT THE BATTLE!"

"A SAVAGE KICK SLIPS INSIDE MY DEFENSES, SMASHING MY BREATH FROM MY LUNGS!"

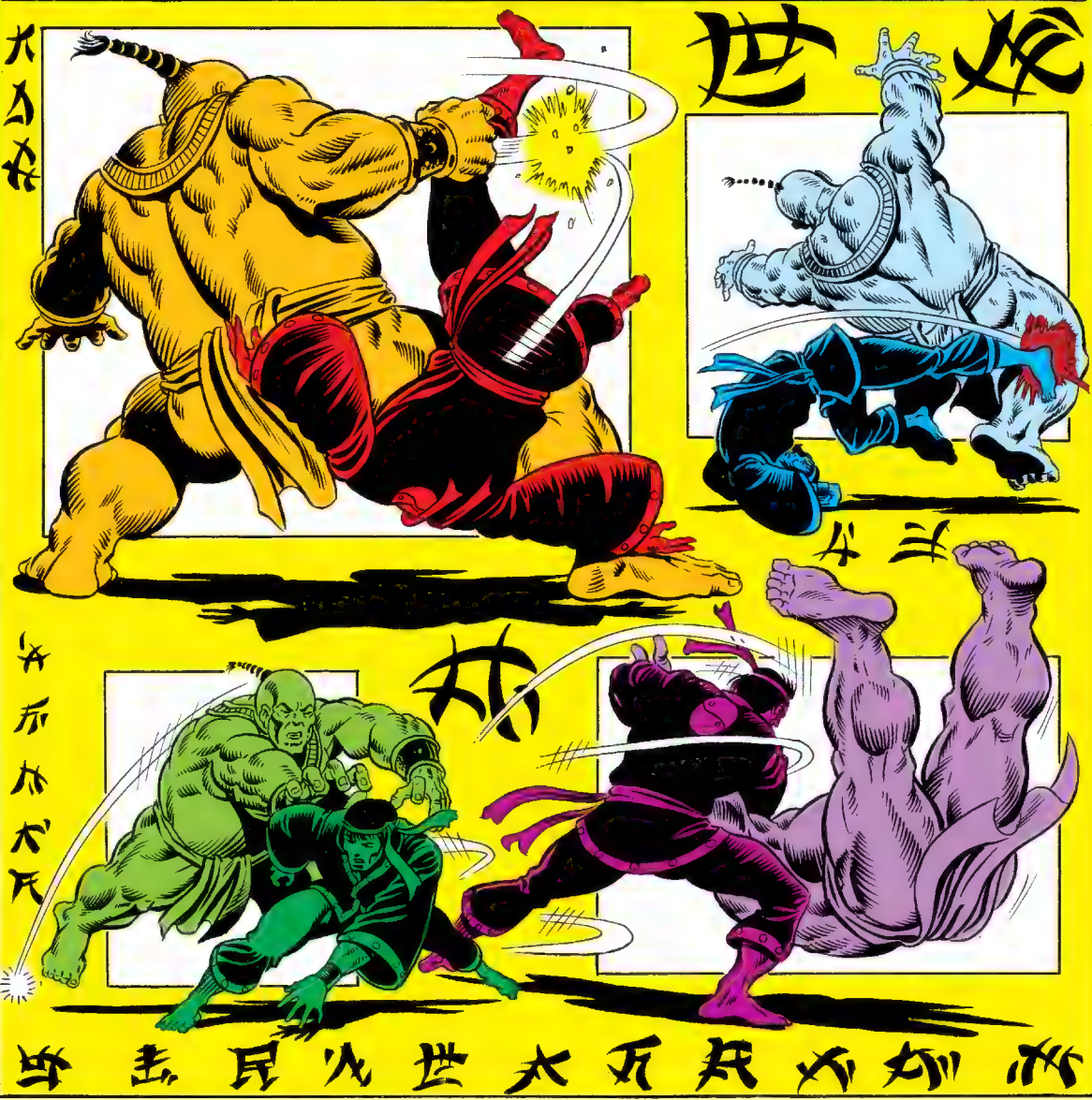
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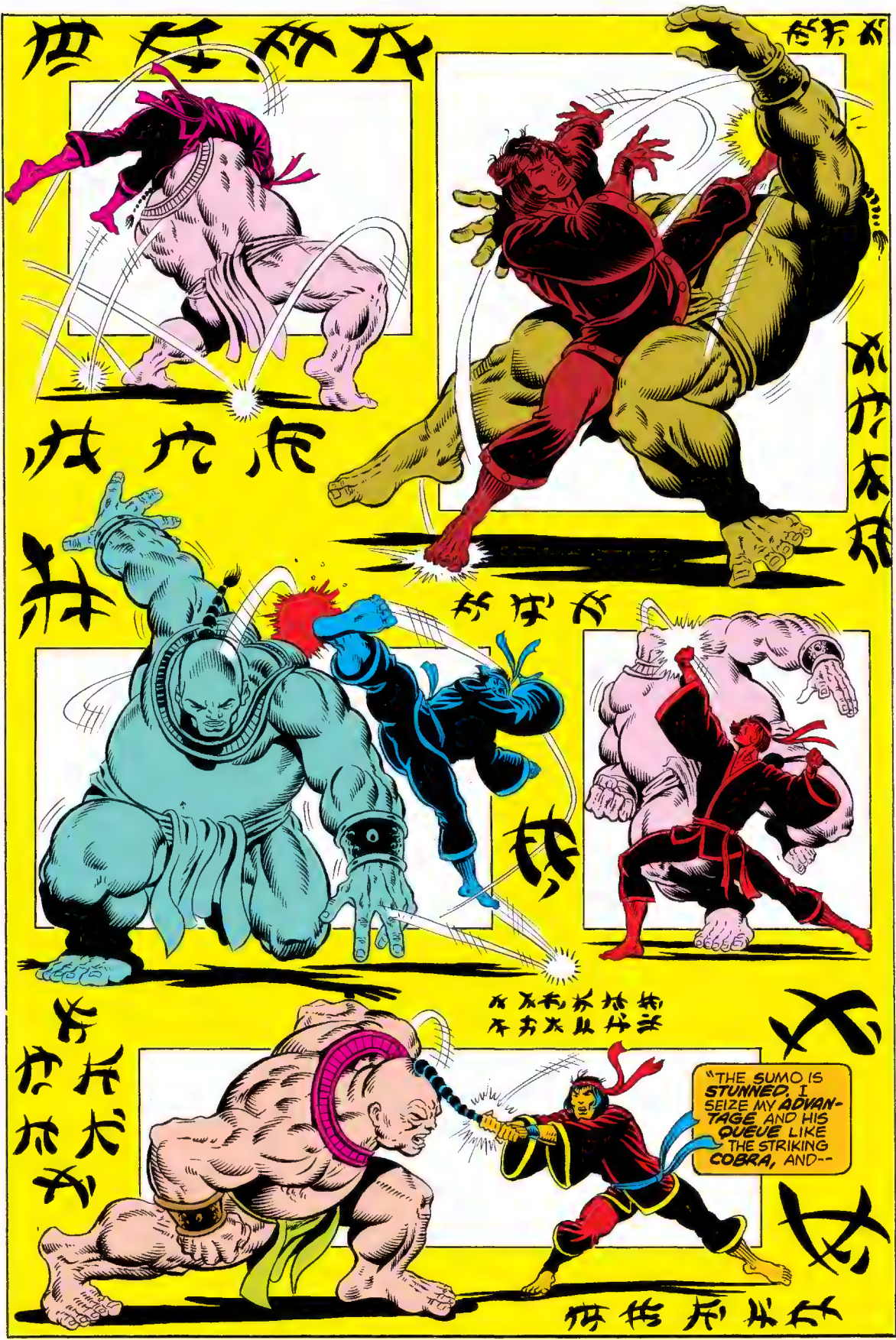
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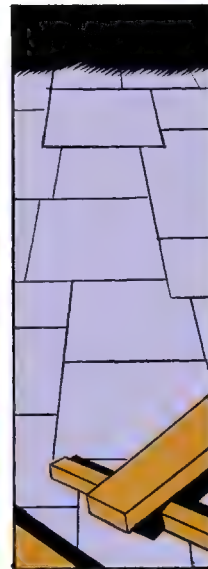
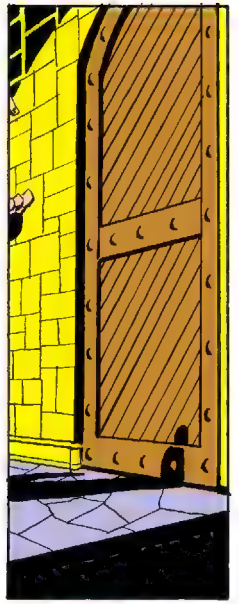
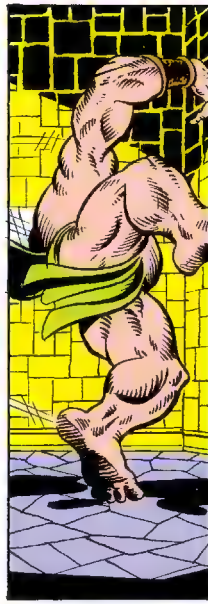
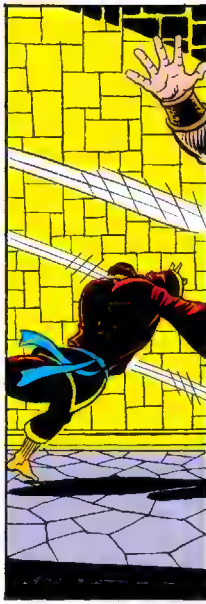
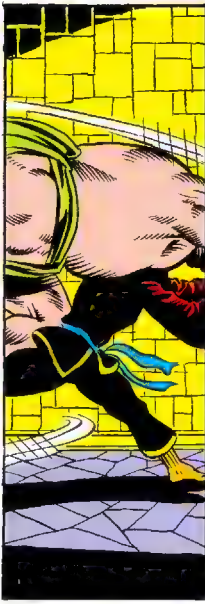
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"THE SUMO IS STUNNED, I SEIZE MY ADVANTAGE AND HIS QUEUE LIKE THE STRIKING COBRA, AND--"



"I PAD FORWARD OVER ANCIENT TILES, FEELING THEIR COOL RIGIDITY WITH MY **TOES**... BUT MY DESIRE TO SPEAK WITH MY FATHER **WAVERS** NOW. I SEEK **RESPITE** FROM MY DRIVING CONSCIENCE IN THE FIRST ROOM I SPY.

"IT IS HIS **LABORATORY**.

SO THIS IS WHAT HE DOES IN HIS HEADQUARTERS. NO **WONDER**, NOW, THAT HE USES OUR **HOME** IN **HONAN** AS A **RETREAT** ONLY.

IT WOULD NOT HAVE **DONE** FOR ME TO SEE HIS **FIELDS** AND **METHODS** OF **EXPERIMENTATION**.

YET I SPEAK AS IF HE WERE A **STRANGER**-- A MAN I KNOW **NOT**--

--WHEN, IN TRUTH, HE IS MY **SIRE**! THOUGH HE AND MY MOTHER WERE OFTEN **GONE** FROM ME, THEY **STILL** GAVE ME **LIFE**... REARED ME TO **MANHOOD**!

I WAS TAUGHT TO **OPPOSE** **EVIL**... I WAS TAUGHT TO **LOVE** AND **RESPECT** MY **PARENTS**.

HOW **CAN** I DO BOTH?

THE **ANSWER** IS THAT PROPAGATING A **CHILD** IS BUT A **NATURAL** FUNCTION OF THE **BODY**...

... WHILE COMMITTING **EVIL** ACTS AGAINST OTHER LIVING BEINGS IS A **CONSCIOUS** DECISION OF THE **MIND**!

MUCH AS I **REVERE** THE **BODY**, IT IS ONLY A **MACHINE**, GRANTED TO **EACH** HUMAN AS PART OF BEING ALIVE....

THE **INDIVIDUAL** PERSONALITY RESIDES IN THE **MIND**, AND WHAT IT DOES WITH THE **BODY** DETERMINES-- **EH?**

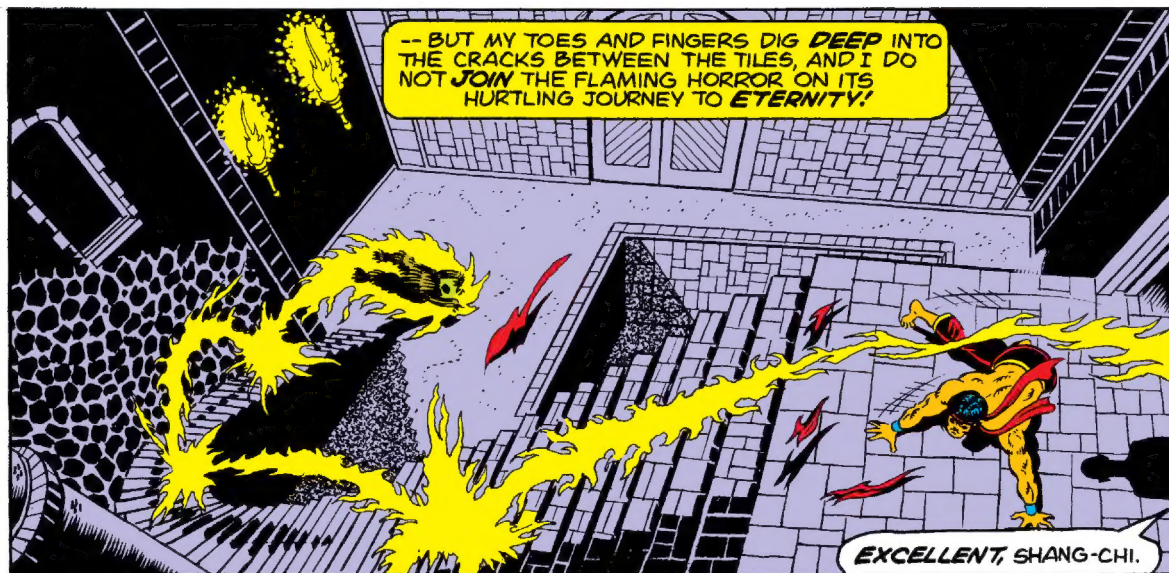
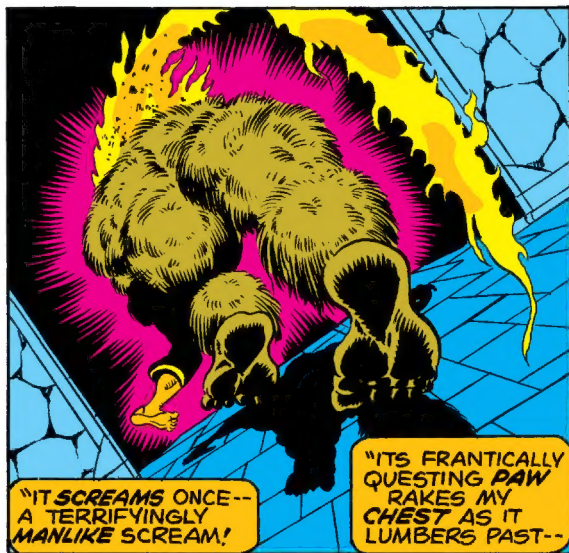
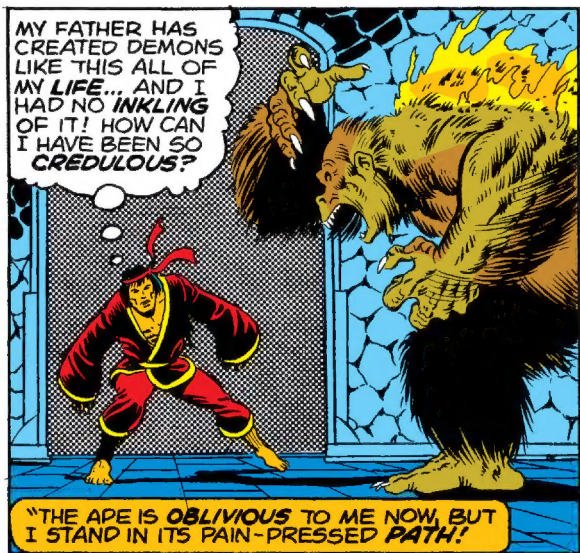
"A SOFT **SCRAPE** SOUNDS BEHIND ME!

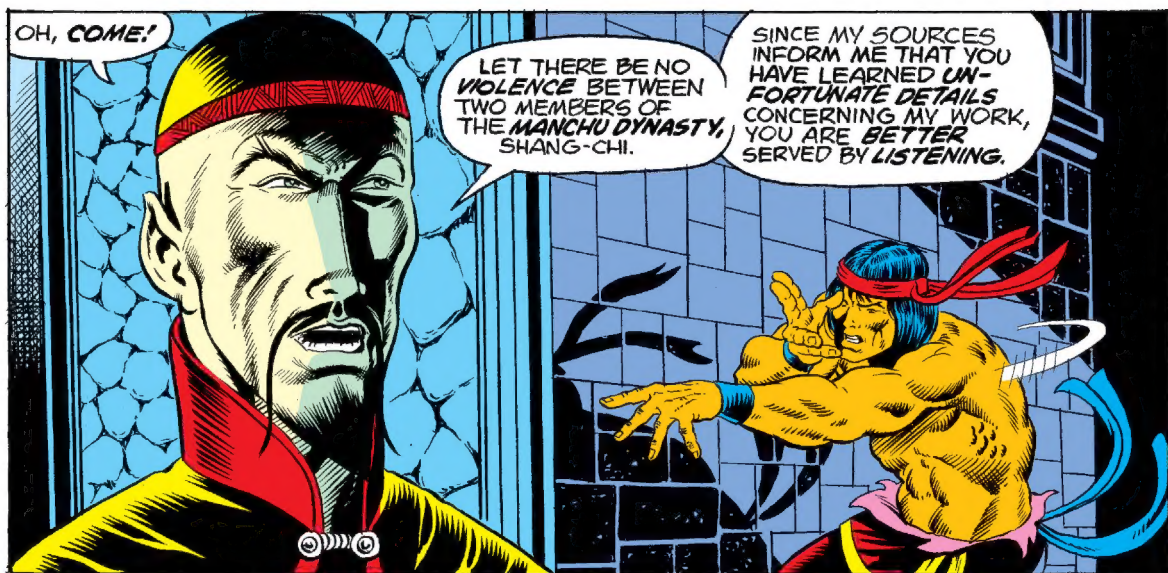


FROM THE FILES
OF DR. FU MANCHU,
16 JULY 1968:

SUCCESS GREETED
ME TODAY. EXPERI-
MENTALIZATION
WITH THE APE HAS
GIVEN IT A
DEFINITELY DEVELOPED
BRAIN, CAPABLE OF
ELEMENTARY REASON-
ING. THUS,
PSYCHOLOGICAL
TORTURES WERE
ABLE TO INDUCE
A TRULY HUMAN
SCHIZOPHRENIA IN
THE BEAST. AN
INSANE GORILLA
WILL MAKE A
SUPERLATIVE FINAL
GUARD IN THE
HEADQUARTERS.



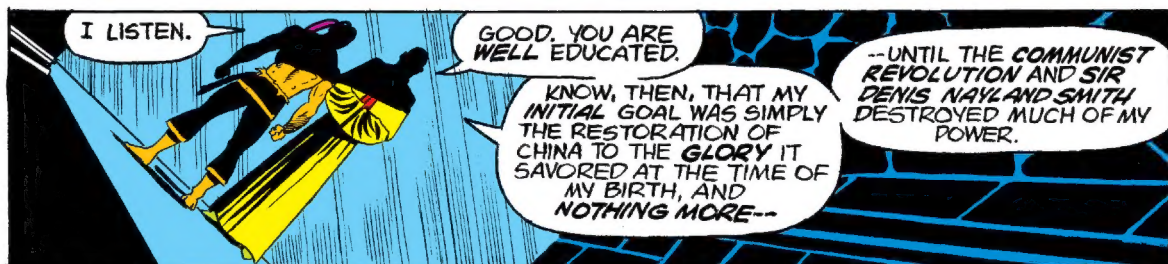




OH, COME!

LET THERE BE NO VIOLENCE BETWEEN TWO MEMBERS OF THE MANCHU DYNASTY, SHANG-CHI.

SINCE MY SOURCES INFORM ME THAT YOU HAVE LEARNED UN-FORTUNATE DETAILS CONCERNING MY WORK, YOU ARE BETTER SERVED BY LISTENING.



I LISTEN.

GOOD. YOU ARE WELL EDUCATED.

KNOW, THEN, THAT MY INITIAL GOAL WAS SIMPLY THE RESTORATION OF CHINA TO THE GLORY IT SAVORED AT THE TIME OF MY BIRTH, AND NOTHING MORE--

--UNTIL THE COMMUNIST REVOLUTION AND SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH DESTROYED MUCH OF MY POWER.



IT EMBITTERED ME. I DO NOT DENY IT.

I WAS FORCED TO REBUILD THE SI-FAN WITHOUT PEKING'S BACKING-- A TASK WHICH HAS COST ME MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS--

--BUT I HAVE SUCCEEDED!

NOW I STAND ALONE, THE EMPEROR OF AN INVISIBLE, WORLD-WIDE EMPIRE, OPPOSED TO ALL RECOGNIZED GOVERNMENTS--

--AND I SWEAR TO AND BY THE GODS OF CATHAY THAT I SHALL DESTROY THEM THIS TIME FOR THEIR MULISH STUPIDITY!

SURELY NOW, MY SON, YOU UNDERSTAND THE WISDOM AND JUSTICE OF MY COURSE.



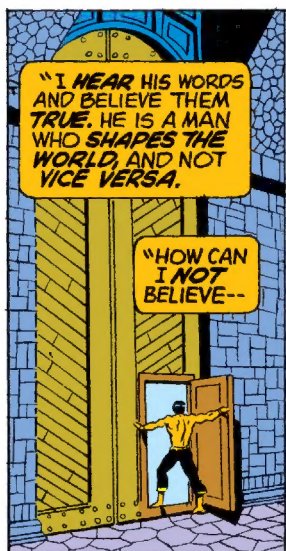
FATHER... YOU SPEAK WITH ABSOLUTE ASSURANCE, COMPLETELY CONVINCED THAT YOUR VISION IS THE ONLY PROPER WAY--

--AND, LIKE ALL MEN WHO SPEAK THUS...

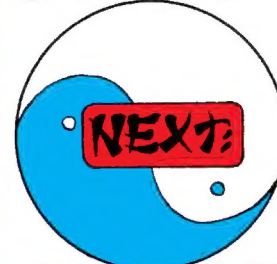
...YOU ARE MAD!



WHEN NEXT WE MEET, IT WILL BE AS IMPLACABLE ENEMIES!



"SHANG-CHI" MEANS "THE RISING AND ADVANCING OF A SPIRIT."



MIDNIGHT BRINGS DARK DEATH!

Shadowcat

